

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the current application. Claims 1, 16 and 19 are independent claims.

Applicants submit that the claim amendments made herein have been made prior to filing of an Appeal Brief and are provided to present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 41.33. Accordingly, the Examiner is kindly requested to enter this amendment, as it reduces issues on appeal.

**CONCLUSION**

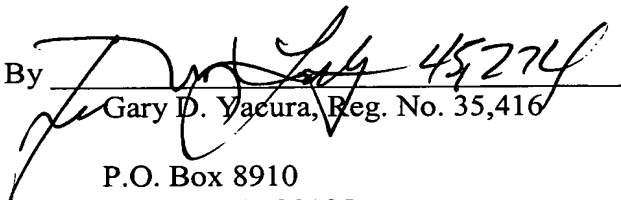
In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 in the Northern Virginia area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$1020.00 extension fee herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

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